

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /073 W

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R 191055Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7716

INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE

AMCONGEN GENOA

AMCONGEN MILAN

AMCONGEN NAPLES

AMCONGEN PALERMO

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL TURIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 8136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GIOLITTI TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: ROME 7461

1. GIOLITTI CALLED ON THE AMBASSADOR (MAY 18) TO EXPRESS HIS WARM APPRECIATION FOR HIS RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID HE FOUND PEOPLE IN THE GOVERNMENT WELL INFORMED AND INTERESTED IN THE ITALIAN SITUATION AND IN THE SOCIALIST PARTY. HE SAID HE WAS REASSURED BY THE ATTITUDES HE FOUND TOWARDS THE SOCIALIST PARTY. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE HE ALSO SAW A NUMBER OF NON-GOVERNMENT PEOPLE IN NEW YORK AND BOSTON AND COMMENTED THAT, CONTRARY TO THE SPECULATION IN THE ITALIAN PRESS, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO GREAT DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS IN AMERICA TOWARD THE ITALIAN SITUATION AND, IN PARTICULAR, TOWARD THE PCI.

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2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, GIOLITTI SAID HE DID

NOT EXPECT THAT THE ELECTIONS WOULD PRODUCE ANY GREAT CHANGE. HE BELIEVES THAT THE BALANCE OF POLITICAL FORCES WILL REMAIN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THEY ARE NOW, WITH NO SHARP CHANGE IN POLITICAL DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY. HE ADDED THAT HE THINKS IT NECESSARY TO GET THE PCI INVOLVED IN SOME WAY IN THE GOVERNING PROCESS IN ORDER TO ASSURE THE COOPERATION OF THE LABOR UNIONS BECAUSE THE COOPERATION OF THE PCI AND THE UNIONS IS ESSENTIAL TO RESOLVE ITALY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. SINCE HIS CALL WAS BRIEF, COURTESY ONE HE DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL ON THESE ISSUES.

3. THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THE OCCASION OF GIOLITTI'S VISIT TO MENTION HIS DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE FACT THAT THE SOCIALIST PRESS (AVANTI, MESSAGGERO, CHANNEL 1 OF RAI RADIO, ETC.,) HAD EITHER IGNORED OR TREATED VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER'S VISIT IN AN UNFRIENDLY WAY. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WAS NOT A POLITICAL ONE BUT WAS STRICTLY RELATED TO THE EARTHQUAKE IN FRIULI. BEING A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, IT DESERVED BETTER TREATMENT THAN IT GOT IN THE SOCIALIST PRESS. GIOLITTI ACCEPTED THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS, MADE SOME DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT THE ITALIAN PRESS, AND SAID THAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY MUST BE MORE ATTENTIVE TO SUCH MATTERS. VOLPE

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